



# New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission

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STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Jon S. Corzine  
Governor

Sharon A. Harrington  
Chief Administrator

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** All Law Enforcement Officials  
c/o Attorney General, Zulima Farber

**FROM:** Sharon A. Harrington, Chief Administrator  
New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission

**DATE:** April 4, 2006

**SUBJECT:** Low Speed Vehicles

On January 6, 2006, Senate Bill No. 1834 (Second Reprint) was signed into law as P.L. 2006, c. 273, amending N.J.S.A. 39:1-1 and supplementing Chapter 4 of Title 39 to now include Low Speed Vehicles (LSV) as a new vehicle type that will be permitted to be operated on approved New Jersey roadways. This new law becomes effective April 6, 2006.

### LSV Vehicle Criteria

N.J.S.A. 39:4-31.1 through 39:4-31.5 sets forth LSV criteria. An LSV is defined at N.J.S.A. 39:1-1 as a four-wheeled vehicle, other than a truck, whose attainable speed is more than 20 miles per hour and no more than 25 miles per hour on a paved level surface. An LSV cannot be powered by gas or diesel fuel and must comply with federal safety standards set forth at 49 C.F.R. §571.500.

### LSV Drivers License, Registration, Title & Compliance with Mandatory Insurance

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 39:4-31.3, any person operating an LSV in this State shall, at all time while the operator is in charge of an LSV on the highways of this State, be in possession of: a valid driver's license, pursuant to the applicable provisions of N.J.S.A. 39:3-10; the registration certificate of the LSV being operated; and an insurance identification card for the LSV as a "Special Vehicle."

The Motor Vehicle Commission (MVC) will require all LSVs to be titled.

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 39:4-31.5, registration and insurance for an LSV is required in accordance with N.J.S.A. 39:3-4, but the LSV will be exempt from regular vehicle inspection.

### LSV License Plate

The Motor Vehicle Commission has determined that LSVs will display one license plate on the rear of the LSV, which shall specifically identify the vehicle as an LSV. The plate will have the letters "LSV" printed diagonally on the left of the five remaining characters.

Personalized and courtesy plates will be available for an LSV but the diagonal letters, "LSV", will not be printed to the left of the plate combination as with the standard plates. However, the bottom rim of the plate will read "Low Speed Vehicle."

Government entities will be permitted to register LSVs at no-fee but will be issued regular government passenger plates (i.e., SG, SP, MC, MG, as applicable) to be displayed on the front **and** the rear of the LSV.

**Limitations on LSV Operation on Certain Highways & Roads (N.J.S.A. 39:4-31.1)**

LSVs will not be permitted on roadways with speed limits that exceed 25 miles per hour. But, by order of the Commissioner of DOT, the use of LSVs on any roadway with a speed limit of up to 35 miles per hour may be permitted. Subject to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 39:4-197 and 4-202, and the approval of the Commissioner of DOT, a municipal or county governing body may enact an ordinance or resolution, may allow the use of LSVs on a roadway with a speed limit of up to 35 miles per hour.

In addition, the Commissioner of DOT may, by order, ban the use of LSVs on any roadway regardless of speed limit if the Commissioner determined that LSV use would constitute a hazard. Likewise, and subject to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 39:4-197 and 4-202, and the approval of the Commissioner of DOT, a county or municipality also may ban the use of LSVs on any roadway by order, ordinance or resolution, as may be appropriate, regardless of speed limit if it is determined that LSV use would constitute a hazard.

An LSV may enter an intersection and cross any public road or highway where the posted speed limit is 35 miles per hour or less, provided that if the road or highway is more than two lanes, or is divided, such crossings shall only occur at signalized intersections, or at such non-signalized intersections as the DOT commissioner, county, or municipality may approve.

An LSV may enter an intersection and cross any public road or highway where the posted speed is in **excess of 35 miles per hour** only at signalized intersections or at such non-signalized intersections as the DOT commissioner, county, or municipality may approve for such crossing.

**Operators of LSV's Must Comply with Traffic & Vehicle Equipment Laws (N.J.S.A. 39:4-31.2)**

Every person operating an LSV upon a public road, street or highway shall be subject to the provisions of Chapter 4 of Title 39 of the Revised Statutes, and Chapter 11 and Chapter 12 of Title 2C of the New Jersey Statutes applicable to the drivers of motor vehicles.

The registered owner of an LSV is required to maintain the vehicle in proper condition.

LSVs operated upon any public road or highway in this State shall be maintained in proper condition and comply with the equipment requirements and standards as set forth in 49 C.F.R. §571.500, as amended and supplemented.

LSVs operated upon any public road or highway in this State shall be equipped with the following additional equipment:

- (1) Brakes adequate to control the movement of and to stop such vehicle;
- (2) An odometer;
- (3) A speedometer; and
- (4) The original manufacturer's vehicle identification number die stamped upon the body, or frame, or either or both of them, of the vehicle or the original manufacturer's vehicle identification number die stamped upon the engine or motor of the vehicle.

All LSVs shall have a safety information decal as provided by the manufacturer affixed in a conspicuous place on the rear of the vehicle, which shall display in prominent lettering "25 MPH Vehicle."

**Enforcement of Violations by LSV Operators**

Any person operating an LSV without the equipment prescribed at N.J.S.A. 39:4-31.2, shall, on conviction, be fined for each violation as provided in N.J.S.A. 39:3-79.

Persons operating an LSV upon a public road, street or highway, or crossing a public road, street or highway in violation of N.J.S.A. 39:4-31.1, shall, upon conviction, be subject to the general penalties set forth within N.J.S.A. 39:4-203.

More information regarding LSVs is available on the MVC website: [www.NJMVC.gov](http://www.NJMVC.gov)

Thank you.

c: MVC Directors